

Mr. Smith Asks a Question.

Wants to Know "What is the Politics of the Kicker, Anyhow?"

"The Kicker is furnishing a great deal of aid and comfort to enemies of Democracy who quote from its columns as matter for a Democratic paper. By the way, what politics is the Kicker, anyhow? Its editor, we are informed acknowledged this week at the court house that he 'did not vote for a single Democrat on the State ticket in 1900, and was glad of it.'"—Benton Record.

Yes, sir; the editor of the Kicker, in 1900, voted for the Bryan electors and the Democratic congressional, senatorial and county ticket "straight," but the state ticket was more than he could swallow and he scratched the whole outfit from Dockery down—and he is now congratulating himself that he did so. He is in no way responsible for the shameful exposures that have come to light within the past year.

As for the papers that quote from the Kicker being "enemies of Democracy," depends entirely on what is meant by "Democracy." The Jackson Cash-Book, the New Madrid Southeast Missourian, the Cape Girardeau Progress, and several other Southeast papers have seen fit to quote quite liberally from the Kicker, and unless it is treason to support Mr. Vandiver for a re-nomination to congress, then certainly these papers cannot be classed as the "enemies of Democracy." It is also true that many Republican and independent papers throughout the state have seen fit to reproduce articles from the Kicker. To this we have no objection. Let the truth spread—no matter through what medium.

If the people had to depend upon the administration organs for the facts, they would be in a bad way.

Mr. Smith does not charge—or even intimate—that anything the Kicker has said is untrue. While he has done considerable squinting and twisting, he has not—and will not—attempt to prove to his readers that the Kicker has published anything that is not wholly true. And now he asks: "What is the politics of the Kicker, anyhow?"

Evidently Mr. Smith was a little nervous when he read the first issue of the Kicker, else he would not have found it necessary to ask such a question. In his introductory the editor tried to make his position as clear as language could make it, and for the edification of those who can find no other answer to the arguments of the Kicker except to charge that the editor is a Republican, we here reproduce the following announcement from our first issue:

"Citizens of Scott County! I again appear in the journalistic field asking your support. If, in time, you find that I do not deserve it, your duty will be to withhold that support. In 1888 I founded the Scott County Newshoop. My journalistic career is yet fresh in your memory. Because I could not be manipulated as it is the custom to 'manipulate' some Democratic newspapers in this state, certain politicians thought it a good investment to furnish the money with which to buy my paper—but I did not know at the time that I was being bought out in order to be gotten rid of.

"Those in this county who have known me longest, know that I have been a Democrat from boyhood. To be a Democrat is to be with the people. It has always been my custom to criticize the questionable conduct of a Democratic official as quickly as the questionable conduct of an official of any other party. For this

William Reeder. Over in Arkansas, on the Frisco is a little town called Sawyer. Close to the town the train passes through a tunnel. One day a nice looking young couple were on the train, and they never seemed to know that there were anyone else on the train. Obviously to their surroundings they were like two souls with but a single thought. While the train was passing through the tunnel those near the couple heard a succession of suspicious sounds sounding like a kiss with a dozen echoes. After the train had passed through the tunnel the brakemen came through the car and called out, 'Bwyer!' The timid looking young man looked up and said: 'I don't give a damn if you did, we're married.'—Ex.

Marriage; Licenses Granted.

Louis Pfeffercorn.....New Hamburg
Mrs. Theresa Kiefer.....New Hamburg
George Norman.....Vanduser
Annie Coleman.....Vanduser
Annie I. Meints.....Kelso
Annie W. Lancaster.....Vanduser
Emma B. Martin.....Vanduser
William Sanders.....Kelso
Annie Potts.....Kelso

Strayed or Stolen.

Disappeared from near Johnston Land Co's mill, about the last of December, a small bay horse pony, about ten years old, with main coat off. A liberal reward will be paid for information leading to his recovery. 10-4 D. H. HARRIS, Commerce, Mo.

At once and will pay the highest market price for same. Cash on delivery at Benton City Mills. C. C. DAVIS, Proprietor.

HON. W. D. VANDIVER

To The Democrats of the 14th Congressional District.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 1, '02.

DEAR FRIENDS:

In announcing my candidacy for re-nomination subject to the Democratic primary election, I desire first to set at rest a question which has been raised by other gentlemen who are stating or insinuating that I bound myself two years ago not to be a candidate at this time.

Now, in this matter as in all others, I think the plain truth is better than evasion, and if the people care anything about the matter at all they are entitled to know the truth. It is simply this: I was urged two years ago to make this pledge, but I repeatedly and positively refused to unconditionally tie my hands. I did say, however, both in writing and in conversation, that reasons outside of politics might keep me out of the race; that if a suitable educational position were offered to me I would prefer it to a fight every two years for a seat in Congress, or if a Democratic administration should come in I might accept an appointment which would give me an opportunity to study the governments of Europe as I have wanted to do for the last twenty years; but that in case neither of such opportunities should come I would consult the Democrats of THE DISTRICT AND HOLD MYSELF FREE TO BE GUIDED BY THEIR WISDOM.

This is a plain statement of facts. Whether it was indiscreet or impolitic for me to make these statements you may be the judge, but I have acted in perfect good faith, and no honest man will charge me with deception. I have spent the past vacation among the Democrats of the district; I have seen and heard from more than a thousand men who tell me that they and their neighbors desire to support me again.

If I foresaw such a scramble as has often occurred in a convention where money and other influences so often defeat the will of the people I would not wish to try it. But at last after four years of arguing for it, I have succeeded in getting the committee to order a primary election in the District, which I consider the best service I have rendered to the people, and I want them to go to the polls and express their unbiased choice for the nomination. This is the offense with which I am charged and for which the political bosses declared that I must be defeated. Let the people say at the polls whether they believe in a convention or a primary election. My opponent voted and worked hard in committee against the primary and for a convention. I stand for the primary election. The issue is clear. If I had worked and voted as my opponent did against allowing the people to vote on my candidacy, I would certainly not feel like asking them to vote for me after they have secured the right to vote.

I have now been in office four years and eleven months. I have tried to serve you faithfully. I have accumulated nothing, because after the expense of the campaign and the expense of living in Washington are taken out there is little or nothing left. Hence I could not make a money campaign even if I desired to do so. But I am now in position to be of some use to the people of the District, and if they will nominate me again I promise to devote my best efforts to putting our District on a level with others that keep their members in Congress for eight or ten years or more.

I stand squarely on the Chicago Platform and did not spend my time in the great campaign of '98 expressing "grave doubts" about the 16 to 1 ratio. The people know where I stood and where I stand now. In '98 others thought the District was not safe, the platform of the party too radical to suit them, and a nomination of such doubtful value that they did not wish to risk it. I took the field in earnest advocacy of the cause of the people against the money aristocracy which had gotten control of our party. In the words of one who now writes me earnestly I "took up the banner of true Democracy after it had gone down in defeat and carried it again to victory." Now the question is, shall it be given into the hands of one who then feared to raise it because of his "doubts" about the platform? Whether this would be fair and proper treatment I leave for you to answer at the polls.

As soon as I can get the interests of the District properly cared for here, I shall come home and enter the campaign with all the energy at my command.

Very respectfully,
W. D. VANDIVER.

THE SOUTHEAST.

Doings and Happenings in Neighboring Counties.

Speaking of Congressman Vandiver the Bloomfield Guard says: "This is just the reason why our present incumbent is retained. When first nominated he was comparatively unknown to a majority of the voters of the party in the district, but he proceeded to go among the people, becoming acquainted, studying their needs and wishes, and making himself useful to them whenever it was possible for him to do so, and the result is that his course has been endorsed by them; and before they will give him up they must see in sight another man in whom they have sufficient confidence to believe he will answer their purpose better, and will be faithful to their interests, and as competent and devoted to his constituents."

Fredericktown Democrat-News: It is becoming apparent that the canvass for supreme judge is opening up and that Judge Fox's candidacy is becoming more popular every day. There is none of the bluster or blow about it. Judge Fox is conducting his campaign for this high office in a quiet and dignified way which is calculated to win him friends and eventually secure for him the nomination as one of the Democratic nominees for the high office of supreme judge of Missouri. Judge Fox will win.

Farmington Times: Congressman Champ Clark's attitude on the sending of an envoy to England to "dance attendance at the coronation of King Edward VII," strikes a popular chord in the West. In the House last week in speaking of this unusual piece of fawning on the part of the administration, Mr. Clark said: "So far as I am concerned, I will never vote one cent to pay any man's expenses to go to England or elsewhere to help crown a king. We went out of the coronation business on July 4th, 1776."

An exchange states the case very forcibly in the following: "Whenever a man says he does not believe in advertising he mistakes the truth—it's the paying for it he don't like. He will always take free advertising gladly. The trouble is he just hates to hand out a dollar without being handed back something material—that can be felt and handled like cabbage. He can't see that his money returns in many ways, directly and indirectly."

Jackson Cash-Book: Senator Marshall, of Scott county, an ardent supporter of Hon. Joseph J. Russell for congress, says that Mr. Russell is now busy canvassing the district and will make Mr. Vandiver his target for the nomination. Mr. Vandiver is very busy at present in Washington proving himself one of the best members of congress the State ever had, but will find time later on to go over the trail Mr. Russell is now making.

Sikeston Herald: About 15 cases of smallpox are reported in Sikeston. Of course, the disease is in no way serious, but it causes a lot of sickness, trouble, worry and expenditure of money that should have been avoided. The poor man is absolutely helpless when the disease enters his home, and in most cases he is compelled to look to the city for support, because he cannot get out to do any work.

Dunklin Democrat: It will be a surprise to many to learn that Dunklin county received, last year, from dram shop licenses \$12,000, which was but \$458 less than it received from current taxes for that year. The financial statement, published today, gives these figures. Dramshops are not desirable, of course; yet they are preferable to "blind tigers" and "boot-leggers."

Bloomfield Courier: Phil. Hafner is all right and gets out a splendid paper, but in all conscience some Democrat with "influence" should furnish him a mileage book. If Bro. Hafner is walking as much as he is talking about passes he will come out in the spring worn off to the ankles.

Perry County Republican: Brother Hafner of the Scott County Kicker is giving the "ring" some telling blows. He is acquainted with its methods, and knows just where to deliver the blows to make them count.

Mrs. Matilda Block, widow of Zal Block, long time keeper of the St. Charles hotel, Cape Girardeau, died on January 22, aged 80 years. Mrs. Block was born in the Cape in 1815.

In the thirteenth congressional district a general primary will be held on June 7th to select a candidate for congress.

Two men, supposed to have been connected with the Morley bank robbery, are in jail at Cairo.

THE COMMITTEE MEETS.

April 5 Selected For The County and Congressional Primaries.

Pursuant to a very brief call, a minority of the Democratic county central committee met at the court house Saturday afternoon. Of the twenty-four members there were but nine present, and two were represented by proxy. Chairman Frazer was present from Commerce and held the proxy of W. R. Sherer, of Sandyland. Chas. E. Moore was here from Sylvan, and J. E. Allen had the proxy of J. D. Bowman. P. H. Boyce and M. A. Jones represented Morley; W. L. Corroll, J. L. Tanner and J. W. Baker were here from Richmond, and Dr. S. J. Wade and W. T. Huffstutter did the honors for Mordland. That was all. There was no one present from either Kelso, Tywappity or Sandyland.

Evidently by mistake, a quorum was announced and the meeting proceeded. Saturday, April 5, was decided upon for holding a primary election to select county candidates and a congressional candidate. And about all the other business transacted was the selection of judges and clerks for some of the townships represented, and the nomination from the townships not represented are requested to select two judges and two clerks and forward the names to Secretary Boyce at Morley.

Whether intentional or not, the Kicker does not know, but the committee adjourned without mentioning the time or method for selecting delegates to the State and National nominating conventions. It was thought that this was one of the objects of the meeting. Perhaps they forgot it. It is just as well that they did. What is the use of going through the farce of selecting delegates to a state convention to be held five hundred miles away? Only men who would accept Bill Phelps' passes could afford to go, and the people of Scott county had better not be represented at all. It might be well to adopt the precedent set by the senatorial race two years ago and allow the committee to appoint the delegates.

"ROUND-ABOUT."

Judge Wright, J. T. Githens, Tole Fink and Frank McGraw, all of Oran; Chas. and Wm. Tanner and Wm. H. Stubblefield, of Sikeston; William Y. Prince and Wm. Canham, of Commerce; Dr. R. A. Sparks, of Blodgett; Squire Dannenmuller, V. V. Lauck, Albert Mantz, of Kelso, and Nick Dannenmuller, Louis Burger and others from New Hamburg, braved the sleet and were seen in Benton during the first of the week.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Moore, of Price's Landing, were in Benton the first of the week. Mr. Moore says the farmers of his section are taking stock in a new store to be opened there and that shares to the amount of \$1,400 have already been taken. Arthur Christman will be manager and Alphonse Brown clerk. A postoffice will also be applied for.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Grojean, John G. Scherer and John Westrich of New Hamburg, came to Benton in a sleigh Thursday. While here one of Mr. Grojean's horses slipped and fell on the ice and it was only after aches had been placed about him that he was able to regain his feet. The horse was not shod.

Henry G. Schatz, of Commerce, has ordered tools and supplies and will open up a blacksmith and wagon shop at Vanduser. Mr. Schatz is a good workman, and his locating at Vanduser will be a great convenience to the farmers in that vicinity.

Morehouse is to have a bank with a capital stock of \$12,500. The bank and the tenant farmer go hand in hand. As one increases, so does the other. Where you find one, you will find the other. The same may be said of the trust deed and the mortgage.

Axle Kjar, of Graysboro, was here Monday and reported that preliminary work on the bridge across the Mississippi river had begun. The bridge will cross about 250 yards below Thebes.

Leo Heiserer, who came home from Essex with fever, last week, has developed smallpox. Now look out for the spread. The village authorities should take prompt action to stamp out the disease.

John Jones, formerly of Commerce, who has been at Belmont for quite a while, will again make his home at Charleston, where he will be in the employ of the Iron Mountain.

John Roth, of Manning, was here Tuesday. He informed us of the death of Fritz Borchel, at his home near Jackson Hill, of pneumonia.

We understand that about fifteen carloads of lumber have been ordered to be used in building fences, etc., at the fair grounds at Oran.

George J. Durgund, postmaster at Perkins, and Joe Kiefer, the saw mill man, were in Benton Wednesday.

Frank Compas, Jacob Leble, Chas. Heuring and William Glastetter, of Kelso, attended court Tuesday.

David Elbert and his son, Dan, of Manning, were in attendance at court Tuesday.

Louis C. Gangle, who is now located at Randolph, was home to see the folks last week.

Wayley Hawkins and Miss Annie Bollinger procured a marriage license at Cairo.

From Commerce.

Some persons, suffering an attack of acute kleptomania, along about Christmas time, drove up to Frazer's hayshed, on his farm, and hauled off about ninety bales of hay. Parties who saw them say the last wagons complied with two two-hundred tons but no one was close enough to give an itemized description of the drivers. The hay was first-class, clean, timothy and the bales were not burred. Any one having bought such kind of hay will please rise to their feet and remain standing until the minister counts you.

Mrs. Gussie Palmer, of St. Louis, came in Monday evening in answer to a telegram announcing the death of her father, Mr. Borchel, of Jackson Hill, who died of pneumonia.

Mrs. Madeline McPherson and Heiserer, out for a sleigh ride, drove over from Benton Tuesday and spent a few hours with friends.

The river has been in good condition for over a week—as a skating pond, and the youngsters have had a jolly good time.

Born, to the house of Joe Sanders, on the 3rd, a girl, Josephine, as she is also does Grandpa Martin Luther.

Joe Ellis may not have had a "hog killing time" since the snow fell, but he has sleight of the girls.

Mrs. Williams, wife of Charles Williams, of Big Island, died January 31, of consumption.

From Kelso.

Albert H. Mantz and Miss Annie I. Melza were quietly married at the parsonage by Rev. Klein, Thursday. Emil Mauer, of Frankfurt, and John Miller, of Manning, acted as "best men," and Miss Minnie Tollner, of Cape Girardeau, and Miss Lena Lauck, of Kelso, stood as bridesmaids.

Your reporter was in error about saying that Mrs. John Hecht had died recently. The reverse is true. A fine girl was born and Mr. and Mrs. Hecht are both happy.

John I. Diebold is arranging for a 20-horse power engine for his saw mill. The old engine will be used by Leo Diebold in his repair shop.

The 12-year-old daughter of John Messner is broken out with what Dr. Williams pronounces smallpox.

Arnold Klein will sell Champion binders, mowers and rakes during the coming season.

Wm. Sanders and Miss Annie Peetz were married at the home of the bride Thursday.

A bounding 12½ pound boy was born to Mrs. Pearl Daugherty Tuesday morning.

Fritz Sackery is papa again—a big boy having stopped at his house on the 28th.

Leo Welter is now counter-hopping at Baudendist's store.

A boy was born to the wife of Sam Meitz Saturday.

The five-year-old boy of Jos. Welter died last Friday.

Mother Klein has been quite sick, but is improving.

From New Hamburg.

During high mass, Thursday, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. John G. Scherer was celebrated. The couple were in the same church and faced the same altar at which they took their marriage vows twenty-five years ago.

There was a large attendance, and after services a splendid luncheon was spread by Mr. and Mrs. Scherer to their many friends. All hope that they may live to celebrate their golden anniversary.

During nuptial high mass, Wednesday, Louis Pfeffercorn and Mrs. Theresa Kiefer were united in marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Bertrand stood as witnesses. Mr. Pfeffercorn is one of our best farmers and his bride one of our most highly esteemed ladies.

Owing to the face of the groom coming in contact with a poison vine, the marriage of Louis Dohogne and Miss Coena Heiserer was postponed from last Tuesday until next Tuesday.

A boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. Legend, Tuesday, and was christened "Henry" at the church Wednesday. Mr. and Mrs. John Hahn stood as sponsors.

Adam Dirlinger and Jacob Blattel went to the Cape Wednesday.

Pedro Bollinger, of Bleda, was here Wednesday.

Subscribe for the Kicker.

From Morley.

Morley lodge 472, I. O. O. F., will install its new officers next Saturday night. Members of the order are invited to be with us.

Don't blame your correspondent because no Morley items came in last week; the fault lies with the Penven.

Clarence Abernathy and Miss Nellie Bryant were quietly married on the 30th ult., Rev. Earles officiating.

Joe Frobnas has returned from Oklahoma, and says he is satisfied there's no place like Morley.

V. L. Harris was over Sunday to see home folks. "Of course the train was late on the return trip."

From Oran.

At the Catholic church the selection among the members for officers of the Young Men's Society resulted in: Frank Metz, Jr., president; Leo Hailer, Jr., secretary, and Frank Anshelm, Jr., treasurer. Among the young ladies it was: Miss Bertha Geisler, president; Miss Mary Legend, treasurer, and Miss Mary Metz, secretary.

The Baptist church has postponed its protracted meeting from Monday, February 3, to the 10th, on account of the meeting now in progress. The State Evangelist and wife and Prof. Scott will conduct the meetings.

The Methodist meeting continued with increasing interest. The weather has been unfavorable during the week but Rev. Cummings has preached some very able sermons.

Rev. Cummings was called to his home in Oran, Mo., Tuesday. We regret to lose him, as he is an excellent revivalist.

The child of J. D. Bowman has had another relapse and its chance for recovery is very poor.

The Baptist Sunday school is on the boom; the attendance averaging about 112.

Farther Helmbacher and Father Menzies visited Charleston Monday.

A very pleasant social was given at the home of R. Watkins Tuesday evening. C. A. J. Matthews shipped a car load of niles on Wednesday.

Rumor says Oran is to have a fine hotel in the near future.

Miss Morrill, of Morley, visited Mrs. Bryans this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Hinkle are spending the week in St. Louis.

County Court Proceedings.

Court met Monday with Judges Reeder, Barts and Welch and Clerk McPherson and Sheriff Henderson present. Following business transacted up to time of going to press:

Allowances—Martin H. Tackwell, \$20; Susan Siskel, \$20; Enoch McCornick, \$20; Mary Beck, \$20; Joseph Williams, \$20; Elizabeth Gordon, \$20; Adam McCally, \$20; Wm. E. King, \$20; road work, \$20; Geo. W. Shields, \$20; road work, \$20; Joseph Ramsey, \$20; B. F. Owens, \$20; Edw. Harrison, \$20; road work, \$20; Wm. Galt, \$20; road work, \$20; Johnstone Land Co., \$20; bridge, \$20; John L. Huey, \$20; road work, \$20; Louis Warr, \$20; road work, \$20; J. R. Simpson, \$20; road work, \$20; Charles Chancy, \$20; road work, \$20; J. Roth, \$20; road work, \$20; Lawrence Becher, \$20; road work, \$20; John A. Bryant, \$20; road work, \$20; Otto Reich, \$20; road work, \$20; E. H. Smith, \$20; road work, \$20; James R. Robertson, \$20; road commissioner, \$20; J. L. Huey, \$20; road commissioner, \$20; Jas. Perle, \$20; paper, \$20; J. L. Liddell, \$20; paper, \$20; Joe Fisher, \$20; repairing road tools, \$20; C. L. Anderson, \$20; road tools, \$20; Charles Strack, \$20; road commissioner, \$20; Wm. H. Howell, \$20; road commissioner, \$20; Frank McGraw, \$20; road commissioner, \$20; Wm. Canham, \$20; road work, \$20; N. B. Cavanaugh, \$20; road work, \$20; N. B. Cavanaugh, \$20; clerk district, \$20; H. M. Siskel, \$20; road commissioner, \$20; F. Oster, \$20; road commissioner, \$20; L. Dannenmuller, \$20; clerk and road commissioner, \$20; Constable Dohogne, \$20; road commissioner, \$20; Wm. G. Prince, \$20; road commissioner, \$20; W. R. Beardslee, \$20; road commissioner, \$20; T. E. Tomlinson, \$20; road commissioner, \$20; F. A. Griggs, \$20; road commissioner, \$20; W. B. Bryans, \$20; road commissioner, \$20; Schenck & Co., \$20; nails, \$20; Martin Becher, \$20; clerk of Martin Goodert, \$20; St. Joseph Asylum, \$20; Geo. McFarland, \$20; L. S. Long, \$20; Frank Kiefer, \$20; Lawrence Sawyer, \$20; T. B. Harris, \$20; R. B. Bonham, \$20; V. L. Harris, \$20; Chas. McMullen, \$20; Geo. D. Barnard & Co., \$20; B. F. Marshall, \$20; W. H. Heiserer, \$20; Hennessey & Bridges, \$20; Anton Legend, \$20; Johnstone Land Co., \$20; Jas. Fuerst, \$20; Marshall-Emory-McMullin Co., \$20; Emory, Sikes & Co., \$20; J. H. Grant, \$20; Joe Gresham, \$20; Dr. L. F. Cruse, \$20; Frank Grant, \$20; Dr. S. Wade, \$20; Samuel Tanner, \$20; Gast Stationery Co., \$20; Standard Printing Co., \$20; Coroner Frazer, \$20; State Asylum No. 209, \$20.

In the matter of road petitions for by Caleb Matthews and others, court orders same opened at the expense of petitioners.

Roland Cannon and A. A. Harrison, justices of the peace, file reports.

Report of commissioners of district 16 filed and approved.

Report of commissioners of district 2 filed and approved.

Dramshop licenses granted to John G. Scherer, New Hamburg; F. Bryans, Morley, and J. W. Marshall.

J. A. Armstrong, contractor, allowed \$80 for building bridge across drainage ditch No. 2.

Report of commissioners of district 7 filed and approved: Harvey Moore, \$27; E. B. Brown, \$21; T. J. Christman, \$20.10.

John McKean, Robt. Davis and J. E. Sparks, commissioners, \$191.04; road work in district 17.

Road commissioners of district 3 filed report and Wm. Byrre allowed \$25; Frank Feldon, \$20, and B. W. Baker, \$20.

Wm. Puchner excused from payment of poll tax on account of age.

Report of road commissioners of district 10 filed and approved. L. Y. Twitty allowed \$20; C. S. Tanner, \$25; J. W. Baker, \$20.

Report of October grand jury filed. Report of road commissioners of district 12 filed, and C. C. Montgomery allowed \$20; Jos. Kiefer, \$20.

Dramshop license granted to Henry Shamley, Blodgett.

In the matter of patting road from Vanduser to Sandy Prairie, \$200 approved to district 13.